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November 1, 2016

Our Seniors Deserve Better



Dear Friends,

Next year, Social Security recipients will receive only a 0.3 percent increase in their monthly benefit check. For the average beneficiary, that's just \$5 more per month. So while it's technically "more" than last year, when beneficiaries received no cost of living adjustment at all, it's nothing compared to the rising costs our seniors are facing.

To put it simply: our seniors deserve better!

These men and women worked hard their entire lives, paid into the system, and now deserve the opportunity to age with dignity. Social Security is an essential safety net. Many of these seniors and people with disabilities are living on fixed incomes, and minuscule COLA increases put them under increased financial stress. It pains me to think about beneficiaries forgoing things they need – like medication, food, or oil to heat their homes – because they don't have enough to get by.

Caring for seniors should be a bipartisan issue. I am a cosponsor of the Protecting and Preserving Social Security Act, which would base

Join the Conversation:



Save The Date

THANK YOU TO
VETERANS

*Help celebrate and honor
our veterans!*

North Kingstown Veterans
Day Parade

Friday, November 11, 10AM
Wickford Village

Did You Know...?

CAPITOL FLAGS

Through my office, constituents can order a United States flag that has been flown over the Capitol building. >>

FAST FACT

The RI Foundation recently launched the Roger Williams Initiative and scholarship program for high school seniors in Rhode Island. >>

In Other News

SAFETY FIRST

Rep. Langevin joined his colleagues in the delegation in announcing a \$375,000 federal grant to hire community engagement

COLAs on the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly that more accurately depicts the cost of living for seniors and people with disabilities. Many of these individuals no longer drive, for example, so low gas prices have a nominal effect on their wallets. High prescription drug costs, on the other hand, take a toll.

This is just one of several reforms we must enact, both to better support our seniors and to ensure the solvency of Social Security. At the top of my to-do list is eliminating the payroll tax cap that benefits only the wealthiest Americans. Currently, any income above \$118,500 is not taxed by Social Security. So an individual who earns \$118,500 a year pays the same amount into Social Security as someone who makes millions. This is not fair, and eliminating this cap would go a long way toward making the system solvent. Privatization is not an option, and we can't kick the can down the road. Our seniors are depending on us, and that's a promise I believe we must keep.

Keep up with my efforts on Social Security and many other issues through [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) and [Instagram](#).

Sincerely,

Jim Langevin



Cybersecurity Month

October was National Cyber Security Awareness Month and, as co-founder and co-chair of the Congressional Cybersecurity Caucus, an exciting time of year for me. I spoke about the importance of cybersecurity best practices with multiple groups, including CVS Health, the Rhode Island Joint Cyber Task Force, and the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce. [Check out my op-ed in the *Warwick Beacon*](#) to learn more about the role you can play in this effort.



Made in Rhode Island

Manufacturing Day also falls in October, and it was an opportunity to highlight the exceptional manufacturing companies in our state, like Trans-Tex and AstroNova. In between visits, I joined Polaris MEP for a manufacturing roundtable with more than a dozen industry leaders. The need to close the skills gap was a common theme

officers for the Warwick Police Department. >>

ON THE BLOCK

During a visit to Block Island, Rep. Langevin met with the *Block Island Times* to talk about the issues facing Congress and his priorities going forward. >>

CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

Students at Rocky Hill School asked Rep. Langevin questions on everything from public service and politics to immigration and cybersecurity. >>

HELPING HAITI

Rep. Langevin attended for a community cookout to help the people of Haiti in the devastating wake of Hurricane Matthew. >>

CYBER HEALTH

Cybersecurity is most often in the news for website breaches, but Rep. Langevin weighed in on preventing hacks of medical devices. >>

POLITICAL HACKS

As co-chair of the Congressional Cybersecurity Caucus, Rep. Langevin reacted to the naming of Russia in high-profile cyber hacks. >>

ENERGY PIONEER

Rep. Langevin congratulated the Block Island Grocery store on being named a Rural Energy Pioneer by the USDA for their energy-saving efforts. >>

OUT OF THIS WORLD

During his Manufacturing Day, Rep. Langevin paid a visit to AstroNova, a manufacturer that works in aerospace and provides printers for companies like

throughout the day, and the ideas I heard will Boeing. >>
help fuel my work as co-chair of the
Congressional Career and Technical Education
Caucus when I return to Washington.

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